

9-22-15
HB4209

Chairman Kesto and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee-

Regarding the "Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act":

The medical marijuana community, the most significantly affected group if these bills were to become law, is NOT in support of the current version of the language or approach to the issue.

In terms of the proposed changes to medical cannabis policy, you are urged to vote NO. The original intention for the changes in law contained within HB 4209 was to make the MMMA (the Act) more functional, easier and safer for patients and to further protect the participants. This concept has been severely hampered by the current language.

What was once intended to be helpful for the patients and the People of Michigan has been reduced to a corporate based, tiered model in which caregivers are shut out from participating in bringing their harvests to market. Under the proposal, law enforcement will still be focused on and use precious resources for arresting people for minor cannabis activity. Patients will not realize any protections, will be expected to pay the higher costs for an unnecessarily overly restrictive model and will now be burdened by additional taxes, as well.

This unnecessarily restrictive and costly approach will certainly keep the alternative or illegal markets attractive to consumers.

Using the truth, and incorporating models already demonstrated to be functional, ought to be the basis for policy change- and that approach could not possibly result in the language being considered today.

In the last session, a workable version of the bill was passed by this Committee and then on the House Floor by an overwhelming margin of approval- 95-14. This version of HB 4209 was excessive in restrictions, but workable for the patient community.

Please use the opportunity as Committee members to not only help the people you represent, but to change the practices and image created by this legislature that has resulted in being deemed a failure- http://www.stateintegrity.org/michigan_story_subpage

The behavior of the legislature has been deemed poor, not only by a third party research group but increasingly by your own constituents. Do not support this ambush tactic.

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